

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-02
OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 DOEE-00 NRC-07
STR-07 /150 W

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O 221907Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6393
ALL CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 00870

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CA, EFIS, PBOR
SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS - PARLIAMENTARY
EXCHANGE

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EXCHANGE ON THE U.S./CANADIAN
MARITIME BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS' ORAL QUESTION PERIOD FEB. 21:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. STUART LEGGATT (NEW WESTMINSTER):
MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT CONCERNS THE PRESENT
STATUS OF THE CANADA-UNITED STATES BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS.
I HOPE THE MINISTER HAS RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE QUESTION.
CAN HE CONFIRM THAT IT IS NOW CANADA'S POSITION IN
THOSE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE ARE GOING TO ABANDON, IN
THIS RESPECT, THE WATERS SIX MILES SOUTH OF THE DIXON
ENTRANCE A-B LINE TO THE UNITED STATES? THIS IS A
LINE SET BY THE ALASKA BOUNDARY TRIBUNAL IN 1903. HAVE
WE NOW ABANDONED PART OF CANADA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS
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TO THE UNITED STATES IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

HON. DONALD C. JAMIESON (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE
STILL PROCEEDING, OBVIOUSLY NOTHING HAS BEEN ABANDONED
OR GAINED. THESE
NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES,

AS I TOLD THE HOUSE A FEW DAYS AGO. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON WITHIN A FEW DAYS, AND I BELIEVE THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER MEETING IN OTTAWA EARLY IN MARCH. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE TWO NEGOTIATORS HAVE CONCLUDED THESE TALKS, CLEARLY I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON THE QUESTION.

MR. LEGGATT: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. I WONDER IF THE MINISTER COULD TAKE US INTO HIS CONFIDENCE AND TELL US IF THAT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE TO THE UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TOOK A VERY STRONG STAND, BOTH ON THE A-B LINE AND ON THE JUAN DE FUCA TRENCH, WHICH WAS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE POSITION THIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ON THESE BOUNDARIES, CAN THE MINISTER ADVISE US WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IS REPRESENTED ON THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE IN DETERMINING THE BOUNDARIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERS, OR ARE THEY STILL UNREPRESENTED?

MR. JAMIESON: MR. SPEAKER, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SQUARE THE HON. MEMBER'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WITH THE FACT THAT HE DRAWS CONCLUSIONS BASED UPON PRETTY FIRM ASSUMPTIONS WHICH HE MUST ALREADY HAVE. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS--AND I HOPE I CAN RESPOND TO HIM
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SATISFACTORILY IN THIS REGARD--THAT THERE IS NO POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IN THIS MATTER WHICH IS NOT FULLY IN LINE WITH REPRESENTATIONS FROM AND PARTICIPATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PARTIES. IT IS STILL A MATTER UNDER NEGOTIATION; THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF ITEMS ARE BEING DISCUSSED BACK AND FORTH.

I REPEAT, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE KNOW THAT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME, NOR WOULD IT BE IN THE CANADIAN INTEREST, TO INDICATE CLEARLY WHAT MATTERS ARE BEING DISCUSSED. I SHOULD ADD, OF COURSE, THAT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA POSITION IS TRANSMITTED TO US IN CONFIDENCE, AS ARE ALL OF THESE REPRESENTATIONS.

MR. LEGGATT: MR. SPEAKER, I MIGHT SAY THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL POSITION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT WAS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. IT IS OBVIOUSLY CONFIDENTIAL TO THE MINISTER AND NOT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MY FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY IS THIS. HE THE MINISTER
RECEIVED THE ASSESSMENT OF THE NEGOTIATORS FOR CANADA
AS TO THE ULTIMATE RESULT IN THE EVENT OF ARBITRATION
IN THESE DISPUTE, AND CAN HE ADVISE WHETHER THERE HAS
BEEN SOME ASSESSMENT, GIVEN THE COMPROMISE, FEET-UP
POSITION THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON THESE BOUNDARIES? HAS
HE HAD AN ASSESSMENT YET AS TO HOW WE WILL ULTIMATELY
LOSE IF WE GO TO ARBITRATION?

MR. JAMIESON: MR. SPEAKER, I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY
EVERY TIME ONE OF THESE MATTERS COMES UP, HON. MEMBERS
--PARTICULARLY HON. MEMBERS OF THE NDP--ASSUME THAT WE
ARE ALWAYS THE ONES TO LOSE.

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AN HON. MEMBER: THAT IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE IN THE PAST.

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MR. JAMIESON: THE HON. MEMBER SAYS, "IN THE PAST".
HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE A-B LINE AS THOUGH IT HAS BEEN
THERE A LONG TIME. IN TERMS OF AN ASSESSMENT, OF COURSE
THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS MADE. I CAN

ASSURE THE HON. MEMBER AND THE HOUSE THAT THE FALL-BACK POSITION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS VERY WELL PROTECTED IN THE EVENT THAT ARBITRATION IS NECESSARY. YET I STILL BELIEVE, AS I AM SURE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES DO, THAT IF WE CAN ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION ON THIS MATTER WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TO THIRD PARTY OR TO ANY OTHER FORM OF ARBITRATION, IT WILL BE THE BETTER COURSE OF ACTION.

BUT IT IS WRONG, MR. SPEAKER, TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS SOME KIND OF SPEED-UP ACTION WHICH COULD IMPLY THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE UNREASONABLE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO GET AN EARLIER KIND OF SETTLEMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, VERY CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF CANADA AND OF THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE THIS MATTER SETTLED; AND HOPEFULLY UNCLASSIFIED

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SETTLED DEFINITELY, AS QUICKLY AND AS AMICABLY AS POSSIBLE.

MR. LLOYD R. CROUSE (SOUTH SHORE): MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE EAST COAST FOR A MOMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. AS HE IS AWARE, THERE IS GREAT CONCERN IN ATLANTIC CANADA OVER THE SHARING OF THE RESOURCES ON GEORGES BANK. AT THE MOMENT, CANADIAN FISHERMEN ARE LIMITED IN THEIR QUOTAS OF FISH ON THE BANK, AND SCALLOP FISHERMEN ARE LIMITED ON THE SAME BANK. THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT THE FISHERIES RESOURCE.

THE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT TO THE MINISTER IS AS FOLLOWS: I UNDERSTAND THAT LICENCES ARE NOW BEING ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES FOR OIL EXPLORATION ON GEORGES BANK. BEFORE THESE PERMITS ARE ISSUED, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE MINISTER THIS QUESTION. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION WITH HIM OR WITH THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES ON THIS MATTER, AND WHAT WILL BE THE CANADIAN SHARE OF ANY DISCOVERIES OF HYDROCARBONS ON GEORGES BANK?

HON. DONALD C. JAMIESON: MR. SPEAKER, PERHAPS I COULD CONFINE MYSELF TO THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION, SINCE I ANSWERED THE FIRST PART EARLIER TO THE EFFECT THAT NO AGREEMENT ON FISH STOCKS HAS BEEN REACHED.

WITH REGARD TO HYDROCARBONS, SEABED MINING AND RELATED QUESTIONS, ONCE AGAIN NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. FURTHERMORE, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE--UNLESS THE HON. MEMBER HAS MORE RECENT INFORMATION THAN IS AVAILABLE TO ME--THE PLAN ANNOUNCED IN THE UNITED STATES SOME

WEEKS AGO, REGARDING THE POSSIBLE CALLING OF TENDERS
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ON CERTAIN SITES IN THE EAST COAST AREA HAS BEEN WITH-
DRAWN BY THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES. THOSE AREAS
ARE NOT NOW OUT FOR TENDER. THAT IS THE LAST WORD I
HAVE, AND I AM SATISFIED THAT IS THE SITUATION.
HOWEVER, SOMETHING MAY HAVE OCCURRED OVER THE WEEKEND
WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN TO MY ATTENTION.
END TEXT. ENDERS

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